FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LABOR DEMONSTRATION OCCURS WITHOUT INCIDENT

PY310050 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2320 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (NA) -- Coming out in response to a call by the General Labor Confederation -- Republic of Argentina, some 15,000 persons staged a 2-km, incident-free march while shouting slogans against the military government. This march took place to mark the first anniversary of a similar demonstration which was, at the time, harshly repressed by the police.

The march was staged this afternoon from the constitution neighborhood to the Canto al Trabajo monument located around 80 meters from the Casa Rosada [Government House], and it was promoted by the Labor Central led by Saul Ubaldini to demand urgent changes in the government's socioeconomic policy and the prompt return to democracy.

The police mounted a large operation in the area and diverted traffic to facilitate the demonstrators' march. There were no incidents during the march which was dubbed The Fatherland Calls the People for Peace, Bread and Work.

The police did not report any arrests. However, before the march began, nine persons were arrested while walking down Mayo Avenue for refusing to heed police orders to march down Independencia Avenue as planned. Labor leaders also denounced the fact that buses, which were going to pick up demonstrators at noon, were "delayed" along the way.

The police estimated the number of demonstrators at 5,000 while labor leaders estimated them at more than 15,000.

Members of human rights organizations, among them, the Plaza de Mayo Mothers wearing white handkerchiefs on their heads participated in the march and distributed leaflets demanding that the "arrested and missing" be turned up alive. Veterans of the Malvinas war were also present, distributing leaflets with various demands, including the demand that Argentina withhold foreign debt payments as long as "the British occupy part of our territory."

MCNAMAR HOLDS MEETING WITH ECONOMY MINISTER

PY310155 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (DYN) -- the U.S. deputy secretary of the treasury, Timothy McNamar, said today after his meeting with Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe that he was "impressed with the determination with which the Argentine Government is implementing the economic program that has been adopted."

Wehbe and McNamar, met tonight for more than 1 hour at the Finance Ministry "to be put up to date on the Argentine situation," said that foreign visitor.

Moreover, he noted that this is another stage of a tour he is making throughout Latin America which until now included Mexico, Peru, and Brazil. He also expressed his confidence that the Argentine situation will improve at the same measure in which there is improvement in the international economic situation.

ENVOY STATES POSITION AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL

PY301356 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2024 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] United Nations, 29 Mar (TELAM) -- Ambassador Carlos Muniz, Argentina's permanent representative to the United Nations today spoke at the Security Council which was convoked 5 days ago after the Nicaraguan Government denounced aggression against its territory. Ambassador Muniz said that a peaceful solution must be sought to the conflict and urged Central America to participate in a fruitful dialogue and negotiations in order to reduce the tension in the area and establish the basis for peaceful coexistence.

The Argentine ambassador's statement to the Security Council outlined Argentina's position toward Nicaragua's claim that its territory has been attacked with support from abroad, meaning Honduras and the United States.

The current chairman of the UN Security Council and the person who chairs the debate, is UK Ambassador John Thomson. At these debates it is customary for the speakers to start by praising the chairman. However, Ambassador Muniz, as he began addressing the council merely said:

"I thank Your Excellency for being kind enough to accept our request for participating in the sessions of this council. I hope that under your chairmanship, the discussion will help achieve a swift solution to the problem which the Security Council is now facing."

Further on, Ambassador Muniz indicated: "A very short time ago Argentine President Gen Reynaldo Bignone, speaking to the Seventh Summit of Nonaligned Countries in New Delhi, stated his deep concern over the critical situation in Central America, a situation marked by political destabilization, violence and constant threats of armed confrontations between fraternal nations.

"Argentina finds this crisis particulary sorrowful because it engulfs countries of that area with which our nation maintains fraternal relations, relations which have been strengthened by the sustained demonstration of solidarity received during the South Atlantic conflict," Muniz added.

He went on to say: "On many occasions and at many forums, my government has offered to help find a solution to the matter and has stated its agreement with various peace projects, especially the Mexican-Venezuelan initiative and that of the Panamanian, Colombian, Mexican and Venezuelan foreign ministers, disclosed on 9 January on the Panamanian island of Contadora."

He recalled that "the joint communique issued on that occasion stated the deep-rooted concern over direct or indirect foreign interference in Central American conflicts, warned that it is highly undesirable to put these conflicts within the framework of East-West confrontation, and agreed with the need to eliminate the external factors which exacerbate this conflict.

"The joint communique also urged all Central American nations to reduce tensions and establish the basis for a permanent atmosphere of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect among the states by means of dialogue and negotiation."

The Argentine diplomat also said that "the states were urged to avoid resorting to threats or the use of force in international relations and asked all of them to refrain from actions which could lead to a worsening of the crisis, thus posing the risk of generalized conflict capable of spreading throughout the region.

He emphasized that "my country feels that it must reiterate its support for these positions that provide, in its opinion, the basis for overcoming a conflict which, if it were to worsen, could have unfathomable consequences that could severely affect the situation of Latin America and could even have extracontinental repercussions."

Muniz recalled that "the two peace initiatives proposed by countries of the region received the express support of the Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi. Through its president, Argentina made it clear there that the innermost causes of the crisis we are dealing with stem from the obsolete political and socioeconomic structures which have done away with justice as the guiding principle in the organization of the community; from persistent violations of the principle of noninterference with, and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states; and from the distorted depicting of this crisis as part of the world power struggle."

Ambassador Muniz then said: "A few months ago our country made a statement at the ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] meeting held to discuss the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction request for aid in view of the loss of human lives and damages caused by floods. As you will recall, this sort of tragedy was also experienced by Honduras. On that occasion, the Argentine delegation called for Latin American unity and solidarity, and a resolution granting aid to both countries was unanimously approved."

He stated: "My government is convinced that based on this spirit of solidarity and strict respect which all nations must have for the principles I have mentioned before, we could harbor the hope that this situation we are dealing with will be promptly resolved.

"In keeping with its repeatedly stated willingness to participate in dialogue, Argentina wishes to remind you all of the call, which is part of the political declaration of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit, to take a constructive position for peace and dialogue in compliance with the principles of international law," Muniz concluded.

AEROFLOT INAUGURAL PLANE RETURNS TO MOSCOW

PY302116 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1633 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (DYN) -- The Ilmushin IL-62M of the Soviet Airline Aeroflot, which on Monday made its first commercial flight between the Soviet Union and Buenos Aires, left for Moscow today.

The four-engine jet, with a capacity of 148 passengers -- 12 in first class and 136 in tourist class -- took off at 0930 carrying Ivan Vasin, deputy minister of civil aviation of the USSR, who arrived on the same plane on Monday.

After taking off from Ezeiza Airport the Soviet plane flew to the airports in Mar del Plata, Rosario and Cordoba. The Aeroflot plane landed at each airport for testing purposes in case it should need to use them in the future when Ezeiza Airport is not operating.

The following is Aeroflot's schedule to Buenos Aires: it will arrive at Ezeiza at 1030 on Mondays after making stopovers in East Berlin and Dakar and will leave for Moscow on Tuesdays at 0930.

TERRORIST COMMAND THREATENS TO BLOW UP GOLF CLUB

PY301349 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (DYN) -- Members of the so-called "2 April Command," which claims to be seeking to vindicate Argentina's sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, have made a threat to the owners of the Hurlingham Golf Club to blow up the club's facilities between 1 and 5 April 1983, police reported today. The Hurlingham golf club is located in northeastern Buenos Aires.

The threat was issued through a telephone call that was received by agronomist David Stewart Jones, 51, who immediately reported the threat to the Buenos Aires province police, which adopted special security measures in the vicinity of the club.

Colvill Jones, member of the Hurlingham Golf Club's Executive Council, remarked that they had been receiving threats for 6 days and that the last one came last night, minutes after 2000, when he was told that "the club will be blown up between 1 and 5 April."

ADEPA SCORES RECENT MEASURES AGAINST NEWS MEDIA

PY291224 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0250 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (TELAM) -- During the monthly meeting of its executive board held today, the Argentine Newspaper Owners Association, Adepa, discussed the seizure of the magazines QUORUM and LA SEMANA, the attack on a journalist and the kidnapping and subsequent release of a cartoonist from the morning daily TIEMPO ARGENTINO.

The adepa report stated that in the case of LA SEMANA executive action was taken by-passing the court which must first establish whether the crime of which the publication is accused has been indeed committed. The report also harshly criticized the prohibition against distributing and selling the magazine QUORUM.

The newspaper owners association severely condemned the attack on the home of journalist Rodolfo Audi and the kidnapping of cartoonist Raul Perrone, and voiced its solidarity with the two professionals.

NICOLAIDES CRACKS DOWN ON COLONEL CESIO

PY310215 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Mar 83 p 11

[Excerpts] Army Commander-in-Chief Cristino Nicolaides has reportedly ordered the prosecution of retired Colonel Juan Jaime Cesio under an article of the code of military justice that provides penalties of up to five years in jail for declarations Cesio made in the last issue of HUMOR magazine, military sources said yesterday.

Among other things, Cesio told HUMOR that a military colleague whom he declined to name had proposed the idea of creating secret army paramilitary squads to combat subversion in 1976.

Cesio has been serving his sentence at a tank regiment base in Magdalena, in Buenos Aires Province, where he will continue to be held until his trial, the sources said.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR SENDS LETTER TO FIGUEIREDO

PY300031 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Mar 83 p 8

[Text] Brasilia -- Nicaraguan Ambassador to Brazil Ernesto Gutierrez sent, in the name of his government, a letter to President Figueiredo explaining the situation in his country and the "state of pre-war" in Central America. The document will be delivered to the chief of state by Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro today. The Nicaraguan diplomat also wants a meeting with the president to go into detail over this matter.

Yesterday, in a conversation with journalists, Ernesto Gutierrez reported that similar letters will be sent this weekend to the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Flavio Marcilio, and the president of the Senate, Nilo Coelho.

He said: The Managua government has not yet made an official request to the Brazilian Government for political support of its position, which denounces "U.S. interference, with Honduran complicity, in Nicaraguan internal affairs by financing and giving material support to the Somozist mercenaries who invaded Nicaraguan territory and who are still there." Gutierrez said: "If necessary, we will request Brazilian political support including material support if we get instructions from Managua."

The ambassador, who was a professor of Latin American literature at the University of Leon before coming to Brazil, expressed his satisfaction over his government's relations with Brasilia. He also recalled that Brazil granted Nicaragua a new line of credit of $10 million last week.

RIGHTIST MILITARY SECTOR DEMONSTRATION FAILS

PY310132 Paris AFP in Spanish 2224 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 30 Mar (AFP) -- Several retired officers of the ultraright sectors of the Brazilian Armed Forces today failed in their attempt to carry out a protest demonstration against the political opening of President Joao Baptista Figueiredo.

The demonstration, on the 19th anniversary of the 1964 coup, was supposed to start during a thanksgiving mass recalling the basic principles of the 1964 coup that overthrew the constitutional government of President Joao Goulart. No more than 20 people attended the mass held in a downtown Rio de Janeiro church today.

The retired officers who attended the religious ceremony in protest against the democratization of the country included Admiral Silvio Heck, navy minister during the Janio Quadros administration; Lieutenant General Joao Paulo Penido Burnier, former cabinet chief under Aeronautics Minister Marcio Mello de Souza; and Colonel Leuzinger Marques Lima. Leuzinger spent 15 days in jail for making statements after the Malvinas war criticizing Brazilian military policies.

At the conclusion of the mass, Col Leuzinger asked for General Figueiredo's resignation. He criticized the military men currently in power of being inept and for not preparing a civilian leadership.

Another officer who attended the mass, General Camilo Borges de Castro, released a document declaring himself a hardline nationalist against corruption, multinationals, ineffectiveness, administrative negligence and the protection of bandits.

GOVERNMENT BANISHES 27 FOR 90-DAY PERIOD

PY292331 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2237 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Report from the Diego Portales Building by Graciela Contreras. Names are phonetic]

[Text] The Government social communications department [Dinacos], informs the public the following:

After making an exhaustive study on the backgrounds of those who were arrested because of their involvement in subversive actions, which violated public order on Wednesday, 23 March, and Thursday, 24 March, the Interior Ministry has been able to establish that 34 of these persons have an extensive background in subversive activities. Of these 34 persons, 27 were detained in the Santiago metropolitan area, 2 were arrested Concepcion, and 4 were arrested in Valparaiso. This clearly shows that they carried out a carefully planned action at the instigation of Marxist extremists.

The Dinacos communique adds that in view of this, the government is obligated to uphold the full force of the law against these activists, who tried to create disorders and alter the peace that is the patrimony of all Chileans and that must be safeguarded by the government.

Consequently, the following persons have been banished for a 90-day period in Pisagua: Jose Verdugo Meza; Ruben Martin Manriquez (?Quilodran); Ricardo German (?Blitter) Meria; Gaston Hidalgo Concha; Omar Rigoberto Rosales Chavez; Patricia Torres Munoz; Xavier Saens Paiva; Cesar Fernando Fuenzalidas Hadias; Sergio Rolando Hundapadilla; Juan Gerardo Araya Zerpa; Ricardo Antonio Hastings Villarroel; Alejandro Vladimir Cisternas Canales; Jose Ramon Avello Zoto; Norberto Oden Caceres Fuentes; and Jose Enrique Nunez Estrella.

Moreover, the following persons have also been banished for a 90-day period to Pisagua: Julio Cesar Parra Padua; Antonio del Carmen Rodriguez Jara; Ramon Ernesto Urnado Duarte; Mario Antonio Quinto Cardolier; Juan Carlos Zevallos Arce; Sergio Mauricio Saens Barriga; Alvaro Alejandro Mora Benavides; Juan Carlos (?Urmadelama); Jorge Sepulveda Castro; Miguel Sanchez Alvarez; Washington Daniel Lara Tapia; Ximena Cecilia Leon Gutierrez; Ruban del Carmen Mendoza Toro; Cesar Cubilla Herrera; Jorge Patricio Altamirana Luna; Claudio Llanes Villalobos; Antonio Marcial Munoz Arrapia; Humberto Fernando Riquelme and Marcelino Solis Ortega.

These persons have been banished for a 90-day period in Pisagua in keeping with an Interior Ministry measure that was issued a few minutes ago.

UK EMBASSY DENIES COUNTRY'S INVOLVEMENT IN WAR

PY302308 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The British Embassy has released a declaration related to a report from an international press agency involving Chile in the conflict between Great Britain and Argentina.

The declaration says that the Chilean Navy has already stated that this is only a repetition of a report released during the Falklands conflict. An international press agency said that, according to a statement of a British journalist, the Chilean Navy reportedly disclosed to the British forces the position of the Argentine Cruiser "General Belgrano" before the cruiser was sunk.

In this regard, the Chilean Navy already stated that the report was whimsical and of the exclusive responsibility of the journalist.

CABINET TO BE RESTRUCTURED; MINISTERS TO RESIGN

PA301725 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] It has definitely been established that President Hurtado's Cabinet will be partially reorganized after 11 April, following the president's return from the United States. It has also been reported that the resignation of the government minister, which was reported by the daily EL TIEMPO, will be formally announced on 11 April. The government minister himself has said he will resign in a matter of days.

It has been said that Industries, Commerce and Integration Minister Orlando Alcivar will also resign and that he will be replaced by the deputy minister, (Patricio Rivadeneira). It has also been said tht Social Welfare Minister Alfredo Mancero will resign since he will be appointed governor of Guayas Province. He would be replaced by Francisco Garces, the current secretary of the National Chamber of Representatives.

Retired Division General Jorge Maldonado, national defense minister, may also resign. Political sources have affirmed that the Government Ministry will be taken over by Valdimir Alvarez, who would in turn be replaced as head of the Labor Ministry by Luis Leon, deputy labor minister.

According to President Hurtado, the stability of ministers is a key factor for efficiently fulfilling responsibilities. However, some ministers have said they want to leave public office, once the government has overcome the serious political, social and economic crisis it has faced during its 22 months in office. The sources have said that the partial renovation of the Cabinet will take place in April. Government Minister Dr Galo Garcia will resign in the next few days.

[Begin Garcia recording] Yesterday, after having overcome the political events of last week, I told the president of my decision to present my resignation in the next few days, thus confirming a previous presentation of my resignation to the president. I believe that almost 4 years in a ministry must necessarily be tiring. The government needs vigorous actions and a great desire to work; therefore I believe it necessary for me to resign in the near future.

It is necessary for the next government minister to maintain a relationship of coordiation with the National Parliament not only regarding matters pertaining to constitutional reforms, but also regarding regular matters that require frequent contact between the executive and the Ecuadorean Parliament. [end recording]

BOMB DAMAGES NEWSMAN'S HOME, NEIGHBORING HOUSES

PA301357 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] A powerful bomb exploded this morning at the home of (Diego Quendo), news director of Telenacional [Television del Pacifico]. Fortunately, there were no injuries, but there was property damage, since the journalist's garage was almost completely destroyed and five neighboring houses were damaged.

According to a statement by (Quendo), he and his family were asleep when, at approximately 0225, they heard a loud noise. A few minutes later he realized that his garage was severely damaged and the windows in his home blown out.

Two policemen, who were guarding a home in the neighborhood, have reported that two men on a motorcycle threw a package at (Quendo's) home. The explosion occurred a few minutes later.

This is the second attack on (Diego Quendo) this year. A previous attempt on his life was made on 18 February. Members of the national investigations service immediately began an investigation to find those responsible for this contemptible crime.

ENVOY SUBMITS CENTRAL AMERICA PEACE PLAN TO UN

PY301750 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Peru submitted a 7-point plan to achieve peace in Central America to the UN Security Council yesterday. The plan elicited positive reactions. Meanwhile, Great Britain suggested that UN secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar seek to arrange a peace conference.

Peruvian Ambassador Celso Pastor del la Torre said that a regional dialogue must be implemented. However, he wondered whether there were interests other than those of Central America which may be rendering the solution to regional problems more difficult. U.S. alternate Representative Charles Lichenstein said that the characteristics of the plan reveal that it was designed by a statesman and that it is worth considering.

GOVERNMENT ARRANGES POSTPONEMENT OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY301335 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p A1

[Text] Yesterday the government ordered that the installments of the foreign debt due for payment between 7 March and 31 May be paid as of 1 June. This postponement was obtained through the negotiations carried out by the economy, finance and commerce minister during his recent trip to New York, London and Tokyo.

According to the supreme decree published in the official gazette "EL PERUANO" yesterday, this postponement covers the short- and long-term loans granted by the international banking sector to public sector enterprises, the utility companies and the state-owned manufacturing enterprises.

The decree establishes that those payments which feel due as of 7 March 1983 and/or were not cancelled by that date will automatically be postponed until May 1983. These payments, as well as those that fall due between 1 June 1983 and 6 March 1984 will be paid with an 8-year loan. The financial terms of the loan are set down in the appropriate contract which will be approved by supreme decree.

As to the interest rates applicable to the above-mentioned automatic postponement, it has been decided that they will be equal to those applicable to the 8-year loan, that is, LIBOR [London Interbank Offer Rate] plus 2 and 1/4 percent, or the floating prime rate plus 2 percent.

This postponement of payments of the foreign debt follows the postponements which during the same fiscal year were achieved for the short-term private sector foreign debt with international private banks, which as everyone knows will be paid through the Central Reserve Bank.

TERRORIST ATTACK REPORTED NEAR SANTA ROSA

PY301410 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] For the second time in less than 3 months, terrorists have launched an attack in the vicinity of the Republican Guard headquarters on the Rimac River, near the shanty town of Santa Rosa.

Last night, 1 hour before the attack, police detained four alleged terrorists in an area close to Peru Avenue. The detainees are: (Doris Ivazco Guayacatmi), alias Comrade (Doris); (Jose Valdivia); (Carlos Ayala Aguilar); and (Luis Farsan Farsan).

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

PA301743 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1527 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Speech by Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella upon accepting the draft constitutional reforms from Commission for Review of Political Constitution; at the Presidential palace in Panama City -- live]

[Text] Messrs Vice President: President of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, President of the Supreme Court of Justice, President of the Electoral Tribunal, President of the Commission for Review of the Political Constitution, Chief of the National Guard General Staff, members of the Commission for Review of the Political Constitution, directors of the Political Parties; members of the National Guard General Staff, Cabinet ministers, gentlemen:

Today we are receiving the recommendations from the Commission for Review of the Constitution, which results from the intensive and difficult work that was entrusted to the commission members by the executive branch pursuant to the authority granted by the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives to proceed to carry out a revision of the 1972 Constitution in order to adjust it to the country's current social, political and economic needs.

It is only fair to acknowledge publicly the great work that has been done by the commission, whose members have had to devote long hours of effort for some 4 months. They have had to concentrate all of their abilities, knowledge and experience on fulfilling this delicate commitment. I thank you very much, gentlemen commission members.

This is a fitting occasion to stress the importance of the draft of the reforms and amendments to the current Constitution, which will be a fundamental tool in leading the country toward the full democratization I have advocated since the very moment I accepted the post of president on 30 July 1982.

My government has centered its efforts around laying the foundations for the fulfillment of the just aspirations and demands of our national community. The document we have before us is a factor that is undeniably necessary to achieve this objective. The proposals that the commission is today submitting to the national public opinion for consideration are an example of what we construe as national unity -- that is, the fruit of joint work. In fact, almost all of the political parties that had legal status at the time of the commission's creation and the various state bodies have taken part in the preparation of this draft.

In our opinion, this document is consistent with the realities, situations and problems affecting us as a nation, problems which must be shared by all of us with a sense of civic responsibility, because this country belongs to us fully and we must jointly give the concept of unity the real connotation it merits. Therefore, we must understand unity to mean a coordinated effort by all Panamanians for the purpose of adopting a policy to solve the serious problems plaguing the country.

This momentous event demonstrates the consolidation of a joint effort, through which a blend of abilities and thinking will contribute to the fulfillment of Panama's legitimate rights through- a renovated, genuinely democratic and realistic constitution. The commission for Review of the Constitution has found constructive avenues that place our homeland's interests above circumstantial personal and partisan differences.

We must admit that even though the draft is not perfect -- like all human work -- it does represent a positive advance toward the fufillment of our commitment to guarantee our citizens appropriate mechanisms for the development of our nation's life through genuinely democratic paths.

Therefore, upon receiving the draft of the reforms to the Constitution, we expect all Panamanians to make a calm analysis of the reform within a framework of civic activity based on a patriotic spirit and a sense of responsibility toward the nation's socio-political affairs. We trust that the vast national majorities will place at the country's service their capacity to evaluate, particularly, the matters pertaining to their democratic rights and the principles of freedom and justice that constitute the backbone of a dignified and independent existence of peoples.

This draft of the reforms will be widely publicized through every possible means. All citizens will have ample time and opportunity to study, analyze and discuss this draft and to develop a serious and responsible opinion about its content, either individually or through representative organizations.

The Electoral Tribunal will have the necessary support in fulfilling its obligations regarding the referendum to the satisfaction of our citizens. It is vitally important to the Panamanian people and Government that this democratic function be fulfilled within an unimpeachable scheme.

I again reiterate to the commission members our deep gratitude for the work they have accomplished and I appeal to the civic spirit and sense of responsibility of all Panamanians. I ask them to show a high sense of responsibility, democratic fervor and patriotism during their analysis of this document. Thank you very much.

Subsequent News Conference

PA310259 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] President Ricardo de la Espriella today held an improvised news conference following his address to the nation after receiving the constitutional reforms. He said he is confident that Panamanians have matured enough to accept the reforms, along with the changes in the system they call for. At the same time, he reiterated that there will be wage increases in July. He also affirmed that there have been no discrepancies, but rather clarifications regarding Panama's foreign policy, and that Ambassador Ozores will return to the United Nations to handle very important tasks. Here is his statement:

[Begin recording] [De la Espriella -- in progress] Those were the orders given to the members of the commission. I understand that they consulted in an ample way with various sectors. Nonetheless, in the interim from this date to the date of the referendum, the reforms will have wide publicity on radio, television, press and at various forums, so that our people can form their own opinion and make a decision.

[Question] Mr President, the system for the election of legislators through electoral districts has been very controversial. Does the president feel that this system is truly representative?

[Answer] I think all systems are good, depending on how they are implemented and how they are regulated. We must remember that the Constitution is the point of reference, and from there on, regulations are established with the laws. We are confident that we are capable of establishing an adequate system that will make it possible for us to achieve our goal: to have a truly representative system.

[Question] Has any date been set for the referendum?

[Answer] We have announced that it will be held on 24 April. We will have 20 days for ample publication, through national networks of television and radio, and through the press.

[Question] Finally, Mr President, the political and economic situation in the country has been variable in recent days, therefore, I ask the president if he feels that certain situations that have caused discontent in the country will be solved gradually?

[Answer] Definitely. It is obvious that with time and the cooperation of Panamanians involved in these problems. With good faith, we will solve them one by one, piece by piece. However, I have faith -- and this I have said on various occasions -- that we Panamanians can overcome times of crisis.

[Question] Mr President, you recently announced a wage increase for workers earning less than $300 [time period not specified], which was to be effective 1 February. What has become of this wage increase?

[Answer] It was not for 1 February, if my memory does not fail; it will be granted on 1 July -- in other words, in the second half of the year.

[Question] Mr President, will the date of the referendum affect the initiation of classes?

[Answer] No, definitely not. The referendum will be held on a Sunday. The Electoral Tribunal has told me that -- if given the necessary funds -- they are prepared for the referendum. What could happen is that students might have no classes on Monday, to give the teachers who will help with the referendum time to return to their towns and reorganize their schools again. This would be the only change I visualize right now, but this is not my decision. We will have to follow the recommendations of the Electoral Tribunal and the Education Ministry in this respect.

[Question] Mr President, there were some discrepancies in our international relations in recent days regarding the positions of our representative at the United Nations and the foreign minister. What is your opinion on this?

[Answer] I would not say that there were discrepancies. I would say that there have been some clarifications. Since the concepts and positions have been clarified, we have considered it advisable that Ambassador Ozores return to his post. It often happens at all levels -- so why not accept it -- that communications sometimes do not flow as they should. In this case, we must solve the problems resulting from bad communications. Since the situation has been clarified, we think that Ozores' mission will be even more important now.

[Question] Mr President, the foreign minister has said that from now on, our international policy will be handled exclusively by the Presidency and the Foreign Ministry. Does this mean that previously our foreign policy was handled by other means?

[Answer] Well, I am also surprised with this clarification. I think that according to the Constitution the foreign policy is a responsibility of the president of the republic. However, as you know -- and this cannot be denied -- all Panamanians like to express their opinions on politics and international policy.

HIGH-LEVEL PNP MEMBERS RESIGN FROM PARTY

PA301955 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Mar 83 p 8-C

[Text] In a communique, several directors and alternate directors of the Popular Nationalist Party [PNP] have announced their withdrawal from the party. The document states:

In an important meeting on Saturday, 26 March, the PNP national directorate decided to confirm Roberto Arosemena Jaen as sole representative of the PNP on the Constitutional Reform Commission and at the same time to confirm its opposition to the military dictatorship. This decision signified public disapproval of the actions of the party's president who, without prior consultation, tried to compromise the honor of the Popular Nationalists with the hoaxes of the regime.

In a democracy, the line of a political party must be established by its members through the methods agreed upon within the party's ideological framework. Nevertheless, the tone and style of the party's leader frequently express the nature of the organization.

Considering that the PNP was registered on the basis of the background of struggle of its president, Olimpo Saez, we believe it advisable that, in a gesture of political honesty and civic nobleness, we present our public resignation from the party and that we let the party be managed on the basis of the previously expressed interests of its president. We repudiate those interests because they do not respond to the initial principles of the party.

We believe that a political party is the organization of free men who actively participate in the search for healthy public administration without corruption. A party is not an instrument of the ambitions of one man or men using the party. A party is the instrument of the ambition of people who want better days for the country.

The strengthening of democracy, the solution of economic and social problems as well as the development of our sovereignty in the canal area force us to maintain our commitment to struggle and to build a new organization with strong influence among the Indian and peasant communities, the professional and labor organizations, the unions and business groups. For these reasons, the undersigned publicly resign:

Roberto Arosemena Jaen, Edison Broce Dimas, Marcos Alarcon, Evangelina Dima, Jorge Gamboa, Gabriel Arosemena Jaen, Esteban Garcia, Cynthia B. de Sousa, Isaac Martinez, Milciades Cerrud, Xenia A. de Broce, Ramon Arosemena Jaen, Juvencio Diaz Kantule, James Sousa, Marcia A. de Arosemena, Toribio Venado, Eugenia O. Aguilar, Fernando Franco, Carlos Herrera, Fabiola Rojas de Gamboa, Elizabeth de Cordoba.

IMMINENT RESIGNATIONS OF AMADO, OZORES RUMORED

PA301900 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Mar 83 p 1A

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] Sources linked to the Panamanian Presidency have pointed out that it is probable that after the Constitutional Reform Commission presents its report to the president, there will be "a purge" at the highest levels of the Foreign Ministry.

LA PRENSA has obtained reports which indicate that during yesterday's closed-door meeting in the Presidency between the Cabinet and the National Guard General Staff, they discussed taking measures regarding the recent actions of Carlos Ozores Typaldos, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations.

Our source said that the resignations of Foreign Minister Amado and Ambassador Ozores will be announced after Holy Week.

Our source added that among circles linked to Ambassador Ozores Typaldos, it is being commented that "he was used as the ventriloquist dummy" of Vice President Jorge E. Illueca to develop Illueca's "Third World" policy. As the public knows, early this week Ambassador Ozores Typaldos agreed with the Mexican and Cuban position of accusing the United States of armed intervention in Nicaragua when referring to the attacks against the Sandinists.

Foreign Minister Amado subsequently described that position as one which did not come out of prior consultations. Some time ago, official circles had discreetly criticized Vice President Illueca's remarks on the South Atlantic conflict and his request for the help of the Latin American armies in expelling the British from the Malvinas Islands.

COSTA RICA

TALKS WITH NICARAGUA SET; DELEGATES NAMED

PA310351 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2251 GMT 30 Mar 83

[By Wilfredo Chacon S.]

[Excerpt] San Jose, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan governments managed to overcome several diplomatic problems in time, and have officially reported that a ministers meeting will be held on Monday, 4 April. The meeting "to improve the deteriorating relations between the two countries" will be held on Costa Rica's initiative at the Nicaraguan city of San Juan del Sur.

The Costa Rica delegation is made up of the following people: Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez, Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano, Interior Minister Alfonso Carro Zuniga and their respective deputy ministers, Eknard Peters, Johnny Campos, and Enrique Chacon.

The Nicaraguan delegation, announced today in San Jose by Nicaraguan Ambassador Rogelio Ramirez Mercado, is made up of Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge; Acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga; Rodrigo Reyes, minister secretary of the Secretariat of the Junta; Justice Minister Carlos Arguello; and Commander Cabrales, minister for the development of the Rivas and Costa Rican border areas.

EL SALVADOR

GENERAL GARCIA DENIES RESIGNATION RUMORS

PA302249 Paris AFP in Spanish 2153 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 30 Mar (AFP) -- In reply to persistent rumors about his resignation, Salvadoran Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia today reiterated that he is not ready to resign his post. Garcia also said that Adolfo Blandon, commande of the 1st Infantry Brigade, and Rafael Bustillo, commander of the Salvadoran Air Force, will not be removed. The two officers supported the rebellion of Col Sigifredo Ochoa, commander of the Sonsonate Garrison, who was demanding Garcia's removal.

The minister rejected the rumors that have spread in recent days about his resignation, and he energetically protested against a U.S. news agency that published the initial rumor citing "high-ranking military sources."

UPI CORRESPONDENT TO BE QUESTIONED ON STORY

PA302333 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] The irresponsibility of the UPI news agency and the speculation of its correspondent contribute to the misinformation about our country's national news, the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, has said. "Approximately 96 hours after UPI released news concerning the imminent replacement of some commanders, the minister of defense was consulted in this regard. He said that the ideas expressed in the news report were completely false. Likewise, he strongly condemned the irresponsibility of the news agency and its correspondent, because this type of information is harmful and only creates confusion, anxiety and uncertainty in the armed forces and the hard-working Salvadoran people, who are preparing to enjoy a well-deserved rest during holy week," Coprefa added.

This statement referred to a UPI dispatch concerning the transfer of Colonels Rafael Bustillo and Adolfo Blandon, of the Salvadoran Air Force and 1st Infantry Brigade, to other posts.

The correspondent will be called to the appropriate offices to clarify which high military sources were consulted and to investigate who is responsible for this misinformation. This questionable attitude only seeks to divide the armed forces members and create doubts among the Salvadoran people, Coprefa added. "We hope that the news agencies will supervise their correspondents, in order to avoid a situation uncomfortable for both sides," Coprefa concluded.

POLICE RELEASE TWO ARRESTED U.S. NEWSMEN

PA310209 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0110 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Treasury Police today released the two U.S. newsmen arrested on charges of having links with the Salvadoran guerrillas. According to official sources, they were released mainly through the efforts of Minnesota Congressman James Oberstar.

Joanne Ambrose Newton and Thomas James Western were taken to the Treasury Police headquarters over the weekend, and were released "on their own recognizance."

ARMED FORCES REPORT ON CLASHES WITH REBELS

PA300241 El Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 29 Mar 83 p 4

[Excerpts] San Vicente -- Subversive groups attacked the town of San Esteban Catarina in this department and sacked the homes of the residents. According to military spokesmen, the subversives arrived near the town at 1800, but were repelled by members of the civil defense until midnight.

At that time, the civil defense members ran out of ammunition and decided to flee, since they were outnumbered by the attackers. There were no casualties among the civil defense guards, they added. As soon as the road was clear, subversives entered the town and started looting stores, pharmacies and private homes. They also went into the clinic of the town's health center and stole all the medicine. They took groceries, clothing, money and valuables from business establishments and private homes.

A child was killed and 12 adults wounded when subversives attacked vehicles leaving the town for San Lorenzo. In Santa Lucia Canton, they machinegunned a pickup truck and killed Juan Jose Lopez, a 10-year-old boy. The other passengers were wounded and were taken to the Santa Gertrudis Hospital in this city.

There was heavy fighting between subversives and a military patrol in San Francisco canton. A young terrorist woman carrying a submachinegun was killed in the skirmish. It was also reported that the bodies of several dead extremists were found after the subversives had fled.

Roundup of Latest Actions

PA300425 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 28 Mar 83 p 1

[Excerpts] The towns of Divisadero in Morazan and San Esteban Catarina in San Vicente were temporarily occupied by guerrillas yesterday and early today. According to military sources, the two towns were looted. There were no soldiers in either town, which only had detachments of the civil defense. The civil defense guards surrendered because the attackers outnumbered them.

The occupation of Divisadero took place early yesterday morning, after the extremists had attacked other towns such as Sociedad and Corinto.

San Miguel authorities said that extremists looted several stores in Divisadero and packed 18 bundles, forcing members of the civil defense to load them. Other versions state that two patrolmen were killed in this town, and that the bundles that the extremists took with them were ammunition and weapons they recovered from the civil defense. As of this morning, the whereabouts of at least 14 members of the local command was unknown.

In San Estaban Catarina, in San Vicente Department, shelling of guerrilla hideouts could still be heard in the morning, when the armed forces arrived with troops to recover the town. Local San Vicente authorities also reported that in San Esteban Catarina, rebels sacked not only stores, but also private homes. It was reported this morning that the whereabouts of at least 30 members of the local command is unknown.

Finally, it was reported that a pickup owned by Jose Castro was machinegunned near San Vicente today, causing the death of 10-year-old boy Jose Lopez Palacios, and seriously wounding his mother Rosa Palacios, as well as her daughters Nelly and Bertha.

Usulutan, 28 March -- Today, the eastern region was without electricity at 0030, according to reports received here, due to the destruction of high tension tower No 19 between Santo Domingo and San Sebastian, in San Vicente Department.

AsAs soon as the damage was located from an inspection conducted this morning, squads from Soyapango and San Rafael Cedros were sent to repair the damage. Meanwhile, a helicopter was overflying the powerlines to detect any other towers that may have been damaged this morning. There was assurance that if only tower No 19 had been affected, electricity would probably be restored by this afternoon.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY EMPLOYEE REPORTED KIDNAPPED

PA302228 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Mar 83 pp 4, 41

[Text] Miss Patricia Elizabeth Martino Pena, 27, technical adviser to the Constituent Assembly, was kidnapped by several persons who intercepted her when she was driving along General Escalon Drive in San Salvador.

The kidnapping took place 6 days ago. Her relatives have received no information on her whereabouts and are very worried. They only know that on the day the young woman was kidnapped (24 March) on 87th North Avenue [as published], at approximately 0745, Miss Martino Pena was driving a white pickup with license plate No 46451. Several persons forced her to leave her vehicle and enter another after which she was taken to an unknown destination. Miss Martino Pena's pickup was found at the curb. The righthand window was broken, leading to the belief that the right door was forced open.

It has been reported that the kidnapped woman works at the Constituent Assembly as just a regular public employee, that is, she does not have any political commitment to any political party. For this reason, her relatives don't know why she has been kidnapped.

Carlos Enrique Martino Pena, brother of Patricia Elizabeth, has called for cooperation from the authorities and the people to find his sister. He said that any information on her whereabouts will be rewarded, and no questions will be asked. He asked that calls be made to telephone No 238959.

FMLN CLAIMS ATTACK BY HONDURAN AIR FORCE PLANE

PA310451 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] A U.S.-made A-37 plane of the Honduran Air Force took part in the victorious battle that the FMLN has carried out in Morazan Department against the gringo Ramon Belloso Battalion. The plane came from Honduran territory and attacked FMLN positions on 30 March in a vain effort to stop the great military victory obtained by our revolutionary army against imperialism.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT REGULATION SETS UP FUEL RATIONING

PA292305 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The government resolution establishing the rationing of fuel in Guatemala beginning next week, was announced today. The regulation states that fuel will only be sold to consumers Monday through Friday, from 0500 to 2000. The sale of fuel in plastic, metal or glass containers is strictly prohibited. Therefore, fuel will only be pumped directly from the gas station into a car's gas tank.

Companies importing or distributin petroleum byproducts are forbidden to sell premium or regular gas to individuals or legal persons, whether Guatemalans or foreigners, who have a licence to store petroleum and its byproducts for personal consumption. This does not apply to the various ministries, related offices and the secretariat of the presidency.

The regulation prohibits external and ornamental illumination in all public and private buildings, monuments, and illuminated commercial signs.

Alejandro Contreras, secretary of mining, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy said that the purpose of this regulation is to reduce the consumption of fuel in nonproductive activities.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ADDRESSES OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PA301651 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Speech by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to the OAS General Assembly in Washington on 29 March -- recorded]

[Text] I appear again before you, the representatives of the peoples and governments of America, exactly a year after my first appearance before this permanent council, when I presented a peace proposal for Central America in the name of the Honduran people and Government. I put the proposal in your hands so that the inter-American system could seek the most appropriate way of using it in compliance with the system's most cherished function, which is to strengthen peace and security on the continent.

A year has passed since Honduras called for negotiations and dialogue. A year has passed since my country called for a general disarmament in the region. A year has passed since we called for a halt to the illegal arms traffic. A year ago we called for the reduction or elimination of foreign advisers in Central America.

In a year, over 30,000 Central Americans have died. In a year, in Honduras alone, 20,000 Central Americans have sought refuge from violence -- of these, 15,000 are Miskito Indians from Nicaragua. In a year, more arms have been imported into the region than at any time in our history.

In a year, the arms traffic designed to cause a confrontation among brothers has not ceased for an instance, to the point that this traffic has incited the fratricidal violence to go to horrible extremes. In a year, great numbers of foreign military and other types of advisers have landed in Central America from countries outside the continent.

What is America doing? What is America doing to stop the suffering of the men, women, young people, children and the elderly of Central America? What is America doing to stop the traffic in the instruments of death? What is America doing to recover its dignity in the face of the silent aggression from extracontinental powers. Why is America hiding its face in shame when it is time to defend democracy, social justice, freedom and peace? What is the matter with America's conscience, that it is not reacting to political oppression, to censorship of the expression of thoughts, to attacks on the rights of assembly, association and freedom of worship, to the cruel and infamous treatment of ethnic minorities? Is it that the dignity of man, freedom and justice only have value in certain places and at certain times? Are these not the permanent principles that should justify our continental unity and solidarity?

Mr president, gentlemen delegates, the peace and security of the American continent are being seriously threatened in the Central American region because the serious internal conflicts that are convulsing our neighboring, brother countries, have become more acute and are going beyond their local framework. The peace and security of the continent are in danger because instead of devoting itself to the construction of democratic, pluralistic and participatory societies, the totalitarian mentality seeks to continue imposing itself on the free determination of popular sovereignty, generating an angry reaction from peoples.

The peace and security of the continent are deteriorating more every day, because someone had the dangerous idea that, in order to consolidate an oppressive regime in a certain Central American country, it is necessary to overthrow other neighboring governments by force of arms and by terror in order to set up new regimes to oppress our peoples.

The peace and security of America are threatened because never before have guns, tanks, airplanes, mortars and grenades come from outside the continent to encourage internal conflicts as they are coming now; because never before as now have advisers come from outside the continent to direct activities from the education and the economy of neighboring countries to the training of terrorist, subversive forces that attack their own brothers with unspeakable hatred and seek to destabilize democratic institutions.

Finally, the peace and security of the continent have been disrupted because, in order to conceal a tragic and dramatic internal conflict, an effort has been made to create an international crisis that will lead, through deceit, to continued solidarity with oppression.

An effort is being made to cover up this entire situation with a deluge of fallacies and lies that must be confronted in the interest of continental peace and security. Nicaragua is experiencing a situation of internal conflict. This has becomes a crisis recently, provoked by a number of political, social and economic difficulties that the Nicaraguan Government has been unable to resolve within a democratic and pluralistic framework that it refuses to place in effect, and it is seeking desperately to appear a victim of a purported threat and purported interventionism from its neighbors.

It is not true that Honduras serves as a base of operations of the Nicaraguan insurgents I invited the Nicaraguan foreign minister to join me in touring our common border so that he could himself confirm the falsity of the charge.

Lamentably, the Nicaraguan Government disregarded our invitations, because to do so furthered its interest in maintaining an international propaganda campaign to claim that it was being attacked from Honduras.

It is not true that the over 2,000 men who are fighting the present Managua regime came from Honduras, because these men are fighting in the center of Nicaragua, 80 km from the capital, and it is impossible that the Sandinist People's Army should have been unable to detect in time a mass movement of men from the Honduran-Nicaraguan border to the center of that country.

It is not true that Honduras transported them by air as has been charged, because the facts demonstrate that we do not have the capacity to airlift over 2,000 men from Honduras to Nicaragua. Neither is it possible for large airplanes to land in the very heart of Nicaragua without being noticed by the regime that is ruling that country.

It is not true that they are being supplied from Honduras, because we understand that this uprising is neither localized nor limited, and because today, as in the past, we are the first to declare that our territory is open, without restriction, to international supervision and vigilance, if agreed upon by the countries in the region. However, Nicaragua has not given an affirmative response to this initiative, which is a testimonial of our good faith and good will.

Moreover, this charge is not true, because we are prepared to submit to any kind of control agreed upon by the countries of the region to stop the illegal arms traffic. We are ready to accept the most vigorous verification methods. However, Nicaragua has maintained a suspicious silence to avoid taking measures like those we have proposed.

It is not true that my country is preparing to invade Nicaragua. Our regular forces consist of 15,000 men, as opposed to almost 100,000 in arms in Nicaragua, including the militias, the Sandinist defense committees and other military and paramilitary organizations that make Nicaragua the state with the largest army in the entire region.

This charge is not true because we have proposed a reduction in the number of military troops in the region to reestablish the balance. Nicaragua has not responded to this proposal and shields itself with subterfuge and evasions.

It is not true that Honduras has unleashed an arms race and that it is interested in arming itself excessively. The Honduran Government is receptive to the recent words of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who dramatically said that the arms buildup has left 1 billion people in misery, that every minute $1 million is invested in weapons and that this is one of the most monstrous scourges afflicting humankind. Because it is aware of this alarming situation, Honduras has proposed disarmament in Central America, arms limitations, arms reductions and a ban on importing certain type of weapons into the region. However, again Nicaragua maintains a suspicious silence.

It is not true that we are not open to discussion of bilateral problems. Last year, I met with Nicaragua's top foreign policy authorities. We met in Tegucigalpa, Costa Rica, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, New York, Washington, right here in the OAS headquarters. Finally, I even went to Managua on a peace mission in November 1982, to talk with the person who is chief of state of that sister nation.

In Managua I presented the Nicaraguan authorities specific plans and mechanisms for reducing tensions and avoiding border incidents. Today, the Honduran Government is still awaiting Nicaragua's answer to our proposals for dialogue and understanding.

What, then, is wrong with Nicaragua, that it is not willing to contribute to the peace and security of Central America and that it wants to resort to threats and to the use of force as Commander Daniel Ortega openly admitted in Madrid, when he said that they would give full support to guerrilla groups in Honduras, and as Commander Humberto Ortega recently said; his tanks, artillery, airplanes and troops are ready to carry out an act of aggression against my country?

What motives keep the present Nicaraguan Government from opening a democratic, pluralistic process that replaces, with freedom and justice, the opprobrious Somozist tyranny?

Here in this organization, the revolutionary commanders of 1979 pledged before America and the world to establish a pluralistic democracy in Nicaragua promptly, to respect human rights, to guarantee a regime of free enterprise and freedom of association and assembly and to ensure full respect for public freedoms.

Who is pushing Nicaragua to subvert the governments that are freely and honestly elected by neighboring peoples? Who is managing Nicaragua in such a way that it is threatening war against a country like Honduras that only wants and seeks peace? Why so much agony and anguish? The figures are most eloquent. In the past lustrum, in the past 5 years, over 100,000 people have met a tragic death in Central America; almost 500,000 human beings in the region have become refugees or displaced persons. [applause]

Mr President, gentlemen delegates, in the course of the past year, over 20 declarations, joint communiques and peace proposals for Central America have been made. An entire year has passed since I appeared in this august place to present our peace initiative for the Central American region. The time that we have allowed to go by costs our peoples tears of blood. The Honduran Government, which is led by Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, believes that we must go from words to deeds. It is absolutely necessary and urgent to convert the various proposals and initiatives into responsible, serious and constructive regional agreements that give Central America, not an armed, temporary truce, but a stable and lasting peace; agreements that restore security to the region; agreements that make it possible to end the political oppression, the political strife and the economic exploitation of our peoples; agreements that make it possible for harmony, freedom, justice and solidarity to exist.

The Honduran Government, in conjunction with the Governments of Costa Rica and El Salvador, as a participant in the drama that Central America is experiencing, has been promoting a mechanism that is appropriate for multilateral dialogue leading to an overall, regional solution. Many consultations have taken place and there is every indication that a meeting of the foreign ministers of Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua would be the most effective means to initiate a process of overall, regional negotiations on the problems that affect peace, security, human rights and cooperation for development in Central America.

We have also consulted with Latin American countries in the Caribbean area regarding their willingness to attend this meeting as first-class witnesses who could also contribute to the success of the planned meeting.

These democratic countries have expressed their willingness to attend, as long as the five Central American countries are present. Moreover, a venue has been offered; a tentative date has been suggested.

There would seem to be every indication that the conditions exist for beginning serious and promising discussions. However, there are countries which have still not indicated whether they are willing to participate in such an important event. While we are waiting for their decision, peace is being eroded and security is unstable.

That is why the constitutional Government of Honduras again comes before the OAS Permanent Council, no longer just to outline its ideas for the dialogue for peace, but to formally request that this hemispheric organ use its good offices to urge the countries in the Central American region, particularly Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua to initiate as soon as possible a process of overall, regional negotiation leading to responsible, serious and permanent agreements to strengthen peace and restore security to Central America.

We also ask the organization to exhort the other area governments to lend all the necessary cooperation to ensure the success of that process.

This is an initiative that has come from the very countries that are actors on the poignant stage of the region. It is an initiative that makes the countries themsleves responsible for the agreements. Furthermore, it is an initiative that comes within the framework of the principles of this organization, and that offers a specific mechanism for initiating the dialogue and conducting the negotiations as a procedure for the peaceful solution for conflicts among states.

The present moment demands that all of us end our indifference in the face of the pain and destruction of our peoples, in the face of all the dangers that loom ominously over the fruits of peace. The Honduran Government trusts that the OAS will respond appropriately to this new historical challenge. It trusts fully that the organization will make a clear and unequivocal statement in favor of dialogue and negotiations in a general and multilateral context for the benefit of peace and security in the Central American region. [applause]

Mr President, gentlemen delegates, we ask for nothing more than peace. We ask only that this organization encourage and exhort the Central American countries to attain it. We must not bear the responsibility of seeing new and more serious conflicts emerge before us.

War and death in Central America must cease and must be replaced by democratic coexistence. It is in your hands. To a great extent, it is up to your governments to ensure that our region takes the paths of frank concord and mutual respect among nations.

I wish to end this address by evoking the humane and pragmatic words with which the constitutional president of my country, Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, said farewell to his holiness John Paul II at the end of the pope's recent pastoral visit to Honduras. The president of the Honduran nation said the following in a tone of urgent warning:

We have listened with devout attention to your messages in the various countries that you visited in your admiralbe pilgrimage through Central America. We have listened with complete attention to your calls for peace and dialogue, to your wise proposals that the drama which this region is experiencing be resolved by means of peaceful understanding, and to your proposals that a climate of reconciliation and harmony prevail, based on good faith, understanding and fraternity among men. In your presence, President Suazo Cordova said, I wish to proclaim, before the conscience of the world and in the name of the Honduran people, that my government accepts without reticence your proposals and initiatives for peace in Central America.

NICARAGUA

BORGE MEETS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOWLER

PA301347 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Excerpt] During his meeting with Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge, who is Nicaraguan interior minister, Wyche Fowler Jr., Democratic representative from Georgia, admitted that other U.S. congressmen who have visited Nicaragua have learned some historical facts. Here is part of the dialogue which occurred between Commander Borge and U.S. Congressman Fowler:

[Begin Borge recording] You favor dialogue; you are interested in having our governments discuss their differences, some of which are probably unfounded, while many are real differences. We also welcome with satisfaction and sympathy the desire you have shown for our two countries to come to an understanding, despite the differences. Although the United States is a large and powerful country -- much larger than Nicaragua, economically speaking -- we, as well as many other men on earth feel that what gives a country dignity is not its size, but its political decisions, its self-respect and its love for its land.

We sympathize with the U.S. people, which have shown nobility, and have also struggled for peace in the world, as they demonstrated during the Vietnam war, and as they will very likely demonstrate in other difficult situations which may confront humankind. [end recording]

CUBANS INTERVIEW COMMANDER BORGE IN MANAGUA

FL302045 Havana Domestic Television Network in Spanish 1613 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Interview with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez by a group of Cuban journalists in Managua; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Constantin] We have several questions regarding the present situation. First, we want to tell you that our group is made up of Orlando Castellanos of Radio Havana, Lesmes Larosa, Juan Aguilera and [name indistinct] of the magazine VERDE OLIVO and Jose dos Santos of PRENSA LATINA and yours truly Elio Constantin of the newspaper GRANMA

[Borge] I know all of you, although Orlando is the best known. [laughter]

[Constantin] We would like to know how the U.S. presence is becoming evident, how can it be surmised that it is connected with the aggression of the Somozists?

[Borge] I am putting my cigarette out because it is bad propaganda for the Cubans. [laughter] Nothing of what is happening in Central America could be explained without the presence of imperialism, without the existence of imperialism. Because the revolutions in Central America and the world have an anti-imperialist content and they come about precisely because imperialism exists, but besides that, imperialism does not resign itself to the loss of its dominions in the world, much less in Latin America and even much less in Central America. And because it does not resign itself to the loss of its dominions, it tries to prevent the triumph of new revolutions in Central America, and tries to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution as it has tried to destroy the Cuban revolution and the great revolutionary efforts of tiny Grenada.

Therefore, at a time when the Central American volcanoes have erupted, when there is a very intense and violent struggle in El Salvador, it's logical and normal for U.S. imperialism and the dominant classes to be not only very worried but to do everything possible to prevent the triumph of the revolution in El Salvador and to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. That goes along the logical historical process. In reality, it would be very strange if what is happening now did not take place.

The most notable situation in Central America at this time is that of El Salvador, because the offensive of the Salvadoran revolutionaries has put that country's army on the brink of defeat. From the historical point of view, the triumph of the Nicaraguan people, of its revolution, is really an event already consummated, although imperialism does not resign itself to its existence as it never resigned itself to the existence of the Cuban revolution.

That is why the situation taking place in Nicaragua cannot be detached from the situation in El Salvador, not just because of its geographic proximity -- or precisely because of it -- imperialism tries to create the illusion that two civil wars are taking place in Central America in order to subsequently propose an overall negotiation, keeping Nicaragua as the other side of the coin in the Central American situation. And because they are such manipulators and so arrogant, they think they can settle the problem that way. They insist that we are sending weapons to the Salvadorans and that we provide logistical support -- weapons that, according to them, come from Cuba and in turn from the Soviet Union.

And under that premise, they will not concede that the revolution is not imported and they try to create this situation in Nicaragua with the aim of negotiating to have Nicaragua stop its logistical support of El Salvador. In other words, if we don't continue to supply arms to El Salvador, according to them, the Salvadoran revolution would collapse.

Actually, we [Borge hesitates, appears to change direction] they have never proven that we are sending arms to El Salvador and perhaps -- and these words are for the Cuban people who have already committed the experiences of history to memory -- it would be almost superfluous to say that what has driven the revolutionary process forward in El Salvador has not been the arms which we supposedly send to the Salvadorans. Why? Because, as any revolutionary who has a little bit of understanding of revolutionary theory would know, revolutions stem from the objective and subjective conditions of each country.

Therefore, imperialism, which knows nothing of historical experiences and puts everything into a computer, believes that if we do not supply arms to the Salvadorans, the Salvadoran revolution would end. And to make us stop sending arms to the Salvadorans, according to them, they have created this situation, this travesty of a civil war in Nicaragua -- this artificial civil war -- which is no civil war at all but a foreign invasion by individuals from the national guard and mercenaries under contract to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Within this context, we want to emphasize -- as we were telling some North Americans recently -- that in the first place we do not intend to accept negotiation of anything at all under the basis of what they are introducing into Nicaragua. That our position, as revolutionaries and because of our revolutionary principles, is to fight and exterminate those counterrevolutionary bands. Similarly, we will not negotiate the sovereignty of our country and the right to make the decisions we may consider adequate. Nor will we negotiate the overall Central American situation under these attempts at blackmail on the part of imperialism. Because really, what are we to negotiate? We have proposed that a political settlement be found for the Salvadoran problem. But this is not just our own exclusive proposal; it is a proposal which has been made by all sensible persons, all sensible governments in Latin American and even the Salvadoran revolutionaries themselves.

[Borge] But it is one thing to find a political settlement for the situation in El Salvador and quite another to negotiate the destiny of the peoples and the quality of the popular Sandinist revolution. The principles of the popular Sandinist revolution are nonnegotiable. And I believe that I should anticipate -- because they employ a lot of rhetoric, imperialism is an expert in rhetoric -- that they may believe we are saying this just to be stalling and using rhetoric. They do not learn from history despite the repeated, daily lessons. They fail to learn that the same experience they had with Cuba in this sense is going to be repeated in Nicaragua. And they will have the same experience with other peoples in Latin America.

Therefore, there is no civil war in Nicaragua but there is an invasion coming from Honduran territory where former national guardsmen, foreign mercenaries and Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have been organized, financed, armed, and trained by the Central Intelligence Agency to penetrate our country, thereby repeating an old story which Cubans know very well because of the experience they had in the Escambray Mountains. And as is well known by the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and other nations of the world, that the enemies of the people, the exploiters and imperialism have always tried to destroy the revolutions. And this of course reaffirms the historical experience that there are no dominant classes nor imperialisms which would resign themselves to the loss of their dominions.

[Unifentified Cuban journalist] What is the present sitation of the former Somozist guardsmen? The international news agencies are releasing reports about fighting near Managua and so forth.

[Borge] Close to Managua? Well, relatively close but far if you look at Nicaragua's map, because the Matagalpa and Jinotega Departments and the country's northern region are far from Managua. If these attacks were in Brazil, then that would be close to the capital because we would be talking about approximately 200 km or so. However, in Nicaragua that is very far because we would be talking about the most remote places, and the border is one of the most remote places in this country. It has been repeatedly reported by the media, particularly the U.S. and European, that the counter-revolutionaries have occupied certain towns. They have specifically said that San Dionisio, Matiguas and Muy Muy have been occupied. In some places it has even been said that Matagalpa was occupied. All this is obviously false.

The counterrevolutionary groups which entered the country and were able to get to the country's central region -- by air or other means -- struck an initial blow. They attacked a company of a Sandinist youth battalion and killed 17 companeros. However, our armed forces of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] and the Interior Ministry subsequently put them in a defensive position from the tactical as well as strategic point of view. The same occurred in the Quilali and Wiwili area on the border with Honduras where they have also been overpowered.

But I must say, however, and I must be very honest about this: We have been unable to liquidate all their forces although we have dealt them significant blows. In other words, the tactical actions carried out in Matagalpa, Jinotega and the country's northern region have been favorable for the EPS but they still have the task forces, as they called them. However, these forces are quite disorganized, dispersed and controlled in certain parts of the territory.

Consequently, the revolutionary state is involved in the planning of a greater effort -- it is more systematic, better organized and more coherent -- in order to face this situation and eliminate the counterrevolution; something we have not been able to achieve yet.

[Unidentified Cuban journalist] We have learned about direct attacks by the Honduran Army. How is this situation?

[Borge] It is too bad we don't have a map here. But their task forces and their national guardsmen entered the northern area. Here is a map. Some of the task forces entered from the northern region and reached the country's central region. Units of the Honduran Army entered from the Pacific side. There are also reserve forces of the counterrevolution which have not entered Nicaragua. They are in Zelaya Norte, on the Atlantic coast.

Therefore, the entry of these Honduran Army troops might be aimed at threatening what we believe is the most important part of the country because Nicaragua's main resources, the government and so forth are located in the Pacific. By threatening this region, they believe we will send the forces that are exerting pressure on the counterrevolutionaries in the central-northern region and weaken our front in the Atlantic coast in order to send them to the Pacific. But they are also lost there because they do not realize that they are dealing with an armed people. So this is the great difference in regard to the military possibilities of a revolution, because while they try to separate our forces, we can respond by keeping groups dispersed because of the quality and quantity of our forces. We have thousands of combatants. For a country with 3 million inhabitants, this is an overwhelming response to any possibility within the Central American correlation of forces. It would be another story if the Yankees sent 1 million soldiers. Well, in that case we would have to return to the mountains to fight for who knows how many years.

But with the resources the Hondurans and the counterrevolutionaries have, they cannot weaken our positions. In other words, we maintain our forces in the Pacific which is where we have our most important installations. We also maintain our strength in the country's central region where we are fighting conterrevolutionary bands, just as we are maintaining our strength in the Atlantic coast where we are waiting for new counterrevolutionary attacks. We also have our forces in the south Pacific and the Atlantic. In other words, there isn't a single place in the country where we can't send our forces. This is directly related to the degree of tension we give to our military possibilities and this depends on the way things happen. I don't know if you have any more questions.

[Unidentified Cuban journalist] What other expressions of solidarity have you received in the wake of this escalation?

[Borge] Companera (Gioconda Billy) said that solidarity is the affection of the peoples. This affection is what gives oxygen and encourages a revolution and the peoples. You, the Cubans, know what solidarity means. We began to know its meaning before the victory, and we have experienced it even more after the victory.

I believe it is fair to note that this solidarity has basically come from the Cuban people and it has been expressed throughout the world; from socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union; from Latin America, Africa, Europe and everywhere. The testimonies of solidarity which we receive are constant.

Now that Nicaragua is experiencing a greater aggression, this solidarity has increased. However, it is just beginning. To the extent that aggression increases, so does the solidarity. This is the big difference between a revolution, the people's struggle against tyrants, and the tyrants. I've never heard about a committee of solidarity or an expression of solidarity with Pinochet. I am sure that there will never be an expression of solidarity with the bloody Salvadoran regime. But there have been great solidaristic efforts in Latin America in favor of Cuba and now, in favor of Nicaragua.

This shows that, in addition to having the force of reason and history behind us, we also have this great potential, which is the people's solidarity helping to neutralize the aggressiveness of imperialism and in exerting pressure on Latin American governments so that they adopt less indifferent positions because, otherwise they will have to face the rage of their own people.

[Constantin] Commander, a diplomatic offensive is underway in the area. It includes the mobilization of foreign ministries and governments which are interested in distorting the facts. Honduras and El Salvador are participating in these actions. Perhaps, Costa Rica and Guatemala are also involved in this. What can you tell us about this?

[Borge] You don't have to use the world possibly. There is a complete diplomatic effort in motion. It is some kind of a diplomatic demagogy in Central America, Latin America and the United States. It is an effort to give solutions to the Central American problem by proposing negotiating tables where the only thing they want to negotiate is the sovereignty and the content of the Nicaraguan revolution. What will be negotiated? We advocate bilateral negotiations with Honduras. We have repeatedly invited the Honduran Army and Government to sit down with us and discuss the real or alleged differences existing between the two countries. We favor negotiating with Costa Rica where there has been a greater acceptance of this possibility. On 4 April, I will meet on the border with the Costa Rican security minister. The meeting will also be attended by the Costa Rican foreign minister, Mr Volio and other Costa Rican officials. The Nicaraguan foreign minister, other officials and I, as member of the National Directorate, will discuss some alleged differences existing with Costa Rica. We have always felt inclined for negotiations but we will not negotiate the dignity of our country and the revolutionary principles.

There has been talk of certain possibilities for negotiations, as long as these negotiations do not contradict revolutionary principles. We are a peace-loving nation but we are a nation of warriors. We do not like war.

[Unidentified Cuban journalist] Commander, I'd like to know about the training the people have had for defense in the wake of this new aggression and the role played by border guard troops and other groups of the Interior Ministry in the crushing of former Somozist guardsmen.

[Borge] The people here say: A single army, in an effort to explain to the world that we are united in a single objective here. The Sandinist peoples militias have received a certain amount of basic military training which has helped them participate in the struggle against the armed counterrevolutionaries. Of course, this training was very basic. I must suppose that it was carried out at the squad level at best, or at the combatant level. Most of the training received by militia members has been in actual combat, as is generally the case for people who are in revolutions. However, our people have the experience of a war and a history which all the Cubans know.

There are great psychological conditions and high fighting morale. In addition to this, our forces have weapons. The army's regular units have powerful weapons supplied by our allies and friends of our revolution.

We can use these weapons to respond to regular attacks. We are using our infantry units to fight the counterrevolutionary bands.

Not long ago, Companero Humberto Ortega inaugurated the military training courses for the militias. We cannot expect the militias to have a great deal of training. This is always so, although we are trying to give them the best training level within our limitations and possibilities.

We have specialized units such as the border guard troops and the Interior Ministry troops. In the case of Nicaragua, the border guard troops are not part of the Interior Ministry, but are part of the army. This is not the case in Cuba where they are part of the Interior Ministry. However, here in Nicaragua, the Interior Ministry has the Pablo Ubeda troops which are special troops for commando operations. Therefore, the border guard troops and the Pablo Ubeda troops have played a very important role in this struggle. We might say that they are a legion of heroes who are defending our borders under very difficult conditions.

We are going to make a supreme effort during these months to give a better fighting quality to all our military units.

[Unidentified Cuban journalist] Regarding the presentation of this case -- the entry of former Somozist guardsmen into Nicaraguan territory -- at the UN Security Council, what can you tell us, Commander?

[Borge] Since the situation is truly difficult and complex and although the revolutionary power is not in danger, we felt it was necessary to take this situation to the United Nations so this, at least, can be seen as a denunciation and so that it could be reported to the world. We do not expect any response from the United Nations to solve this problem but it was also very valuable to take the case there because it allows various foreign representatives to express their solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution. Therefore, this was basically aimed at seeking [a resolution] denouncing and protesting this action, as well as expressing solidarity with Nicaragua, at this important organization.

[Unidentified Cuban journalist] Commander, the revolutionary government is planning to adopt other kinds of measures because there has been talk of a military and economic emergency. Should these measures be adopted or not? What can you tell us about this?

[Borge] I cannot tell you about the specific measures we will take, but I can give the Cubans an idea about it. A revolution that is not defended can no longer be a revolution, and we must use revolutionary terror in the face of counterrevolutionary terror. You can draw your conclusions from that.

[Constantin] Well, We thank you, Commander.

[Borge] First, allow me to greet the Cuban people with special attention. They have a preferential place in our hearts.

PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS OFFER TO FIGHT SOMOZISTS

PA281843 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Mar 83 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Managua, 22 Mar (ANN) -- Leaders of the various political parties that make up the Patriotic Front of the Revolution [FPR] today placed themselves at the orders of the Sandinist People's Army to go personally to the battlefronts and fight the counterrevolution.

This was reported by Cesar Delgadillo, officer in charge of FPR press affairs and national secretary of the People's Social Christian Party [PPSC]. The FPR is composed of the PPSC, the Independent Liberal Party and the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, as well as the FSLN.

Delgadillo also reported that over 2,000 FPR members have joined the Sandinist People's militias since yesterday, when the defense minister reported the escalation of Somozist and CIA actions in our territory. He said that although they support a peace dialogue with Honduras, they are also prepared to take up arms and defend the revolution.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON POLISH DELEGATION'S VISIT

PA301806 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique on Polish Foreign Ministry delegation's visit; dated Managua, 29 March]

[Text] On 28 and 29 March, a delegation of the Polish Foreign Ministry headed by Deputy Minister Josef Wiejacz visited Nicaragua. During its stay, the delegation met with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga. The talks were held in a climate of mutual solidarity and brotherhood. The topics of common interest were the following:

The Nicaraguan and Polish deputy foreign ministers exchanged views on the social, economic and political situation of their countries. The two officials expressed their opinion on the international situation and above all on the subjects of most interest to the two countries. These included deep desire of Nicaragua and Poland for the attainment of peace and detente in world. The deputy foreign ministers agreed to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations. Proof of this is seen in the signing of the first agreement between Nicaragua and Poland in the foreign trade area during this visit.

The Polish delegation appreciated the sacrifices and efforts of the Nicaraguan people, who during these difficult moments do everything possible to solve their problems at the domestic level and within the international context.

The Polish delegation congratulated the FSLN and the Nicaraguan Government and people for the prominent place they occupy in international organizations such as the UN Security Council and the Nonaligned Countries Movement.

ATLANTIC COAST MINISTER LEAVES FOR HAVANA

PA292300 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2216 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander William Ramirez, minister for the development of the Atlantic coast, said today that the military situation in that area is "normal within abnormality."

Ramirez said this before leaving for Havana, Cuba, today on a "personal" trip.

The Atlantic area near Puerto Cabezas, where Commander Ramirez has his headquarters, has been subject to frequent attacks by antigovernment groups based in Honduran territory, according to the Sandinist authorities.

BRIEFS

COFFEE CROP FIGURES -- Domingo Gomez, production secretary of the Farm Workers Association, on 20 March reported that 1.43 million quintals of coffee had been harvested as of 10 March, exceeding the production goal by 30,000 quintals. Of these, 1,161,000 quintals worth $141 million for our country have been exported. [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 1 PA]

BARTER OPERATIONS -- In February, the Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Ministry offices handled the equivalent of $3,642,000 in tobacco, metals and machinery, caustic soda, polyvinyl acetate, resins, plywood, industrial textiles, soft drink concentrate, titanium dioxide, (Netrosol), ballpoint pens and cartons in barter operations with Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador and the United States. In the latter case, Nicaragua bartered tobacco in exchange for industrial machinery. [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Mar 83 PA]

MALMIERCA CALLS U.S. 'OBSTACLE TO PEACE'

PA301611 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1540 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Madrid, 30 Mar (EFE) -- Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca accused the United States of exerting "a negative influence" and of being "an obstacle" to peace in Central America in remarks published today by the Spanish weekly TIEMPO. Malmierca said that "the awareness that the Central American situation calls for and demands a negotiated solution is growing first of all in Latin America, and also in Europe."

"We Believe," he added, "that in addition to Spain and France there are other European countries which have also gained more understanding and awareness of the advisability of exerting their influence in favor of achieving these results." He indicated that "the most important thing is that the U.S. Government understand this point, since it is the one exerting a negative influence, becoming an obstacle because of its control of the Salvadoran Army and military authorities, which have thus far impeded the beginning of any dialogue that could lead to a political solution."

Malmierca, who made an official visit to Spain in mid-March, said that he did not discuss Spain's possible mediation in the Central American conflict with Madrid authorities. Nevertheless, he admitted that "we have talked about the situation in Central America. We have assessed it and agreed that it is necessary to seek a negotiated political solution to the situation in that region and, especially, to the situation in El Salvador." "Such a solution," he noted, "should permit the participation of all the parties involved in that conflict, without exclusion. Of course, it should permit the participation of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, to whose presence at the negotiation table "there are no other options."

The foreign minister denied that there have been "negotiations or discussions between Cuba and the United States for a long time." In this regard, he recalled the visit of U.S. General Vernon Walters to Havana and a meeting between Cuban Vice President Rafael Rodriguez and Alexander Haig in Mexico. Malmierca said that those contacts "have only served to permit each of the parties to state his version and positions. These were not negotiations or discussions, but an effort to approach common positions."

VERDE OLIVO ASSAILS REAGAN'S PHOTO EVIDENCE

FL301625 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Issue No. 13 of VERDE OLIVO Magazine, organ of the FAR, went into circulation with an important article entitled: "A Challenge to World Conscience," analyzing U.S. President Ronald Reagan's latest speech. The article notes that just 12 days after the conclusion of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi, the U.S. President appeared before the television cameras to defend the approval of a military budget that has soared to a record $239 billion, and called for a military build-up through the development of space weapons.

VERDE OLIVO points out that Reagan, once again, tried to justify his insane arms race policy through the cynical argument of a supposed Soviet superiority, which has been rejected on several occasions, even by important experts from the West.

The article adds that Reagan, armed with four photographs, tried to make his country's viewing audience believe the hackneyed and false [argument] that a Soviet military threat was springing up like weeds before the very doors of the United States, and the article asks: What were the U.S. President's sensational revelations?

The so-called revelations of Mr Reagan were no less than the presence of MIG-23 aircraft and a satellite communications antenna in Cuba, the positioning of three Soviet helicopters and antiaircraft artillery batteries to protect Sandino Airport in Managua and the expansion of the international airport in Grenada.

In part, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez and Grenada's permanent mission to the United Nations took care of ridiculing such arguments. In the case of Cuba, VERDE OLIVO states, the presence of MIG-23 aircraft has been made known in public activities, and the mysterious antenna, which troubles Reagan so much, is part of the communications which, in a modern world, a sovereign country can obtain without having to ask anyone's permission.

The VERDE OLIVO article points out that at the very instant Reagan was using the argument of our defensive capabilities to advocate his fabulous military projects, three groups of U.S. attack aircraft carriers were moving near Cuba. These detachments, initimidating in nature, were headed by the CVN-69 and CVN-70 nuclear-powered ships and the conventionally-powered CV-67 with a capacity to carry some 180 fighter aircraft and up to 120 support aircraft.

VERDE OLIVO notes that Mr Reagan told at least one truth when he admitted to aerial espionage, which the White House has systematically carried out over the sovereign territories of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, an effrontery matter-of-factly revealed by the President, himself, during a television appearance.

To appear on his country's television to show that it is necessary to prepare for some kind of galactic war because a tiny island like Grenada is expanding an airport to help the tourism its economy depends on, or because they photographed a Soviet-built helicopter in Nicaragua -- a helicopter used to transport Pope John Paul II -- turns into some sort of tragicomedy due to the dangerous command capacity of the President.

The article continues: Let us trust that the weight of world public opinion, including that of the United States, and the more realistic and sensible forces in the U.S. Congress, may succeed in putting a stop to such extremely dangerous military plans.

COMMENTATOR SAYS REAGAN OFFERS NOTHING NEW

FL310225 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Irma Caceres Commentary]

[Text] Do you know someone who does not want peace, someone who would not make every effort possible so that mankind will be able to preserve that precious legacy that is life? This question could appear to be a simple one and could be answered with the logical response that all men seek and struggle for peace. However, I believe that the response given this morning by U.S. President Ronald Reagan on this vital and universal issue is far from such an answer.

At the conclusion yesterday, of a protracted period of negotiation in Geneva between the Soviet Union and the United States aimed at limiting the number of medium-range missiles, the U.S. President again reiterated his decision to deploy new nuclear missiles in Europe this year if the USSR does not accept dismantling part of its SS-20 missile installations.

Reagan went much further and affirmed that this is an initial step in his projected zero option, that is, the USSR would have to disarm itself unilaterally while the United States and its allies, the Western governments, maintain their arsenals intact, aimed at not only the USSR but also at the entire socialist community.

We cannot separate this statement by Reagan from the Geneva negotiations, which are stalled because of the capricious and dangerous U.S. position of military rearmament, and from the enormous pressures being exerted on him by his European allies and world public opinion. It is a case of giving an apparent demonstration that the dialogue is progressing in the face of the international rejection provoked by the U.S. arms race, aimed at achieving a military supremacy over the USSR to eliminate the possibility and capability of response by the Soviet Union in the face of the first U.S. nuclear blow.

The United States wants to diminish the Soviet military might and that of the Warsaw Pact nations, notwithstanding the nuclear capability it already has installed in Europe, which the socialist community considers to be in a state of parity at this time, and without counting the 350,000 U.S. troops stationed in several European countries, the 300 important military bases located in various parts of the world, the many fleets threateningly navigating in nearly all seas and this year's fabulous U.S. military budget of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Then, what kind of a new proposal is this, which in the end, seeks the disarmament of the socialist camp? It cannot seem strange to us that the majority of the Western European countries have responded positively to the statements made today by Reagan, because they yearn for any type of intermediate formula that would make it possible for them to gain time and, with this, the removal of the phantom of a new war, perhaps the last one.

That is why we feel that the recent statement by Soviet Leader Yuri Andropov terming Washington's position insane is accurate. In my opinion, today's response by Reagan is as imprecise as previous ones because he insists on deploying new nuclear missiles in Europe and, with this, an inadmissible U.S. nuclear superiority.

USSR'S ARKHIPOV MEETS WITH VISITING MINISTERS

FL302240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2110 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, today received Cuban ministers Hector Rodriguez Llompart and Marcos Lage Coello. Also present in the talks with Rodriguez Llompart, president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Lage Coello, minister of the Steelworking Industry, was Cuban Ambassador to the USSR Rene Anillo Capote.

BARBADOS

CCA WELCOMES SIGNING OF CARTAGENA TREATY

FL301630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1609 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Brigetown, Barbados, March 30, CANA -- The Barbados-based Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) has welcomed the recent signing by several Caribbean and Latin American states of a convention making provision for better management of regional natural resources. Those signing the Cartagena Treaty on March 24 were Colombia, France (for its Caribbean island departments) Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, St Lucia, the United Kingdom, on behalf of its remaining colonies and associated states in the region, the United States, Venezuela and the European Economic Community. The convention will remain open for signature for one year in Bogota and most of the 27 countries participating in the action plan are expected to sign.

The agreement achieved with the acceptance of the convention, and the protocol concerning cooperation in the combatting of oil spills, represents an important step forward in the implementation of the Caribbean Action Plan -- accepted by the governments of the wider Caribbean at Montego Bay in April 1981 -- even though there have been delays over the carrying out of priority projects owing to non-payment by certain governments of their promised contributions, the CCA said in a statement.

It added however that several top priority projects are in the process of implementation including one on environmental education and public awareness being carried out by the Caribbean Conservation Association, and these priorities were approved by the inter-governmental meeting which followed the signing of the convention.

Additional priority was also allocated to projects concerning tourism and the environment and the establishment of protected areas for the preservations both terrestrial and marine wildlife. The latter is of particular relevance to CCA on account of the work in this fielf being carried out by its Eastern Caribbean Natural Area Management Programme (ECNAMP), the CCA said.

This month's meetings in Cartagena were attended by the president and executive director of CCA which, as the only Caribbean regional non-governmental organisation concerned with environmental matters, plays a significant role in the Caribbean Action Plan.

GRENADA

BISHOP SAYS NONALIGNED MOVEMENT STRONGER

FL301505 Bridgetown CANA in English 1446 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 30, CANA -- Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop says this month's summit of nonaligned nations in India had further strengthened and unified the movement, despite what he said were American efforts to break it up. Bishop made the point here in an address at the opening of a construction plant.

He said "some reactionary elements" within the movement had devised a plan to destabilise Grenada by using the newspaper. Radio and television to paint a dirty picture of the country. He said despite the attempts by "United States imperialism to break up the movement," revolutionary countries all over the world received solidarity from non-aligned member states to further strengthen their individual processes.

Bishop added that the African National Congress, the South West African People's Organisation, Mozambique, Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Grenada all received firm statements of solidarity and support. He said every time the forces of reaction started to spread their lies they were forcefully "beaten back."

Grenada, where bishop came to power in a 1979 coup, poses no threat to anyone, the prime minister said, adding that America was agraid of the influence of the revolution on other countries in the region. Other countries will want to follow the example of Grenada because of the benefits the masses received since 1979, he said. The New Delhi Summit ended March 12.

BISHOP PRAISES WORKERS FOR JOINING MILITIA

FL310003 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has praised workers in Grenada for their active role in the defense of this country. Speaking at a special workers' parish council yesterday, Prime Minister Bishop revealed that many workers are signing up for [words indistinct] in the People's Militia, including the service section.

In his address, Prime Minister Bishop commented on the growing support for Grenada regionally and internationally, pointing out that imperialism had underestimated the support of the revolution. The fight back in the United States, he said, has had much effect in recent days, a reference to the wide coverage Grenada has been receiving in the North American press.

[Begin Bishop recording] But I am even more pleased to say, comrades, what you already know, and that is that a fight back internally is also going very well, because inside of our country, it is becoming clearer and clearer every second that more and more of our people are willing to be mobilized and to be organized and to be ready to fight back when the time comes. We are particularly happy that the working class, the leading class [words indistinct] has in fact taken the lead in this area. It is very quite clear to us that our workers are in the forefront at this time. [applause] [end recording]

Prime Minister Bishop went on to say that this response from the workers in another indication of the correctness of the PRG [People's Revolutionary Government] in placing emphasis on the development of the working class in this country.

BRIEFS

OAS ASSISTANCE -- Grenada will receive just under $350,000 in economic and social development assistance from the OAS. The money to Grenada as well to other Caribbean and Latin American countries has already been approved by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. Other Caribbean countries earmarked for assistance are Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. [Text] [St Georges Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 25 Mar 83 FL]

JAMAICA

THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN PREPARATORY LOS SESSION

FL302000 Bridgetown CANA in English 1900 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA -- Third World countries attending the first session of the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the Law of the Sea Tribunal are meeting here today still faced with a few nagging disagreements that have prevented them concluding a package on the structure and work of the commission to take forward for negotiations with developed countries.

A working party of the Group of 77 had agreed on most of the fundamental issues of the package, including the general structure and the quantitative distribution of seats on a bureau among the five regional groups in the U.N. system -- Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Western Europe and others. But the stumbling blocks have been who should deal with matters related to preparatory investment in pioneer activities (PIP) in deep seabed mining, plus the frequency and venue of future meetings of the commission.

The law of the sea negotiations, mainly in deference to the developed states, had recognised that some countries and institutions had undertaken pioneer activity in deep seabed mining, and PIP essentially allows for such countries and institutions to register with the commission and gives them first choice in mining, once the Law of the Sea Convention comes into force.

Latin America, whose candidate, Trinidad and Tobago's Lennox Ballah, is likely to chair the commission on the enterprise, the commercial arm of the ISA, wants PIP to be dealt with by that commission. Africa, which will chair the preparatory commission, wants it handled by the plenary. Asia, the other regional group in G-77, has argued that matters on PIP should be dealt with as a subsidiary organ, chaired by a member of the Third World Caucus. The Asians, particularly India, Fiji, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, also suggested that future meetings of the prepartory commission be held in New York or alternated between New York and Kingston.

Jamaica, which built a conference centre in Kingston to accomodate the work of the commission, and conscious of the economic advantage of having the meetings here, has been adamant that the Law of the Sea Conference had, by resolution, made it clear that meetings of the commission should be held at the site of the ISA, once the facilities were available. The Jamaicans have been backed by other members of the Latin American group and also the Africans. Jamaica was chosen as the site for the ISA headquarters.

On the matter of frequency of meetings, the African group suggested that the commission should meet only five weeks per year, but other G-77 members have said that they would need to work more frequently if the ISA was to come on stream in about three years. Jamaica, for example, has argued that the commission should meet between 15 and 20 weeks per year.

Reliable sources here say that some countries are likely to recommend that today's G-77 plenary decide to take the agreements so far for negotiations with the Eastern and Western Europeans and others, hoping that the matters will be resolved there. But it is also possible that G-77 will ask its working group to have another try at finding consensus, the basis of decision making in working out the package.

POLITICAL COMMENTATOR CRITICIZES U.S. POLICIES

FL282256 Bridgetown CANA in English 2200 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, March 28, CANA -- Jamaican political scientist and commentator, Carl Stone, today called on Caribbean peoples to reject attempts by the United States to provoke militarism in the region and suggested to the Edward Seaga government here that it "whisper" to U.S. President Ronald Reagan that his approach will produce more enemies than friends for Washington.

"Of course, Jamaica can't even whisper to Reagan any sharp criticism on this point as U.S. aid has literally become our lifeline supply of foreign exchange in recent months," Professor Stone said in his column in the GLEANER newspaper.

"That, of course, is the price of economic dependency. However, if one is to go by public statements of regional policy our government and the prime minister pretty much share the Reagan view that the communist and Soviet-Cuba connected threat requires tough and drastic counter-measures to contain it," he added.

But the University of the West Indies (UWI) reader in government went on: "Our government is, however, committed to peace and stability in the region and even if we can't make loud noises of dissent on Reagan policies, we should support other countries interested in pressing for a negotiated settlement in El Salvador and whisper to Ronnie that his wild west approach to the region will produce more enemies than friends towards the U.S."

Professor Stone wrote: "Now, every country has a right to defend its borders from hostile external forces. But on what basis can the U.S. claim to have the right to determine which global power blocs it should affiliate to?" [He] asked on what principle this could be justified, except by the "imperialistic notion" that the Caribbean and Central America constitute part of a U.S.-owned tenement yard.

"More fundamentally," he added, "the idea that tiny states like Nicaragua and Grenada represent threats to U.S. security is a simple-minded and ludicrous distortion of regional power realities that insults the leaders of the region who are asked to believe this nonsense."

Professor Stone, a respected pollster, has been a liberal supporter of the Seaga government, though in recent times he has questioned some of the administration's policies. He said that the interest of the Caribbean people would never be served "by our giving support and endorsement to this (U.S.) effort to provoke militarism. "Not even the U.S. people and legislators believe that these policies are either realistic, likely to be effective or have any moral basis. The people of the region should reject them," Professor Stone wrote.

"The countries of the region have a responsibility to mobilise regional support for peace initiatives and de-escalation of military aggression through the OAS (Organization of American States), the U.N. (United Nations) and other regional and international bodies, which can help to defuse what is building up as a serious threat to regional stability."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GUYANA DELEGATION CONCLUDES TRADE TALKS

FL281745 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 26, CANA -- A visiting Guyana delegation has concluded talks here on trade expansion and joint venture investment with a Trinidad and Tobago Government team, but a brief statement on the discussions gave no details of conclusions reached.

The statement from the Government Information Service said subjects discussed on Wednesday and Thursday included expansion of bilateral trade in non-oil commodities, including the purchase of steel and possible areas for joint ventures and other forms of investment in the forestry, fisheries, housing and agricultural sectors.

Trade restrictions, expansion of trade in non-traditional commodities, including fish, shrimp, fish products, jams and jellies, furniture, games and toys, fresh and dried fruits, vegetables and handicraft, the supply of timber and co-operation in fisheries were also discussed.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation was headed by Mr Frank Barsotti, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning. The six member Guyana mission was led by Ambassador to the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Rudy Insanally.

The Guyana Foreign Ministry said before the mission left Georgetown that the Port-au-Spain discussions were "in keeping with talks between (Guyana) President Forbes Burnham and Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister George Chambers at the last Caricom summit in Ocho Rios, Jamaica last November."

BOLIVIA

NEWS MEDIA WORKERS CONTINUE 48-HOUR STRIKE

PY302330 Paris AFP in Spanish 1531 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 30 Mar (AFP) -- The 48-hour national strike order by the journalists association and the Radio and Television Workers Confederation, in protest of the employers' refusal to pay a bonus ordered in a ruling by an arbitration panel, continued for the second consecutive day today.

The strike was only partially observed since the radio stations and newspapers of Santa Cruz, the second city of Bolivia, 1,000 km east of this capital, continued to work normally with the express authorization of the union leadership in view of the serious floods which continue to affect this city.

In Cochabamba, the third city of Bolivia, situated in the center of this country, the newspaper LOS TIEMPOS -- the only one published in this city -- circulated normally.

In La Paz, although all the newspapers and television stations stopped their activities, two important radio stations were on the air. The National Journalists Association (ANP) as well as the Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association (Asbora), to which the owners of the two radio stations belong, have called the strike illegal and have informed the Supreme Court of Justice that the ruling of the arbitration panel was unconstitutional.

COLOMBIA

ARMS FOR FARC REPORTEDLY FLOWN FROM PANAMA

PA301653 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 24 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] Santa Marta (Magdalena), 23 Mar (CIEP) -- The sophisticated shipment discovered Monday by the police when the aircraft carrying it landed in Guarna airport in southern Magdalena was reportedly sent from the city of Balboa in Panama -- mentioned on various occasions as a "free port" of the Colombian guerrillas -- to guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC. This was announced here by a military intelligence source which added that the modern weapons had been obtained on the black market which operates in the neighboring country with the "dissimulated consent" of the National Guard.

The aircraft carrying the arms apparently left early Monday from Panama, without a set flight plan and flew at a very low altitude to elude air controls; nevertheless, it was picked up by a powerful radar installed near Punta Escoces on the Atlantic coast.

In fact, the Colombian authorities were alerted to the possibility that the aircraft might head for some part of the country's northern coast, but there was no specific information on the purposes of the crew.

Just as the aircraft arrived at the end of the runway, a Magdalena police detachment seized the arsenal, which included R-12 rifles, .30-cal carbines, submachineguns, shotguns, automatic pistols and revolvers.

The police also seized war material and more than 20,000 new and oiled cartridges which were stored in well-sealed boxes.

The pilots of the aircraft, with Colombian registration number HK 2902, put up no resistance to the police search and spontaneously confessed their mission, saying that the guerrillas had paid them.

The crewmen, identified as Humberto Correal Alzate and Raul Londono Morales, were taken today to the 2d Brigade General Headquarters in Barranquilla, where they are being questioned by members of military intelligence. The aircraft is under close custody of the police at Las Flores airport in El Banco township.

GUYANA

BELIZEAN TRADE DELEGATION TO NEGOTIATE PURCHASES

FL301515 Bridgetown CANA in English 1434 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 30, CANA -- A trade delegation from Belize is due in Guyana next month to negotiate purchases of locally-manufactured goods worth some four million dollars (one Guy dollar; 33 cents U.S.), a spokesman for the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce said here. The negotiations will be handled through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, the official said.

The ministry has already informed the local manufacturers of the intended visit and has given specification of the goods needed but details were not disclosed.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the move was one way of creating more business for the local manufacturers at a time when industry was declining. The organisation's spokesman said however that there was an "urgent need for the release of foreign exchange so that the manufacturers can import raw materials."

"If the foreign exchange is not released, the manufacturers will not be able to take advantage of the new market," the spokesman added. Guyana has for years been experiencing a severe foreign exchange shortage.

MEXICO

PETROLEUM EXPORT FIGURES GIVEN BY PEMEX HEAD

FL31050 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0059 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 30 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- It was learned here today that Mario Ramon Beteta, director of Mexican Petroleum (Pemex), reported today during his official visit to Great Britain that Mexico exported 1.43 million barrels of petroleum per day during the first quarter of this year.

During an interview granted to BBC, Ramon Beteta said that the figure of Mexican crude exports is slightly lower than the goal of 1.5 million barrels per day, established by the government. He also referred to the intensive sales effort that is being made in Europe in order to reach the established export goal, and said that Pemex has held talks to that end on the highest levels with Spanish, French and British companies.

Regarding the price of the North Sea crude, he said that Mexico understands the reasons that have led Great Britain to make a technical adjustment, and it hopes that this decision, announced today, will not unleash further price cuts among the OPEC member countries.